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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

KOENIG, ANDREW Y

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2611

DATE MAILED: 03/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/162,768

Applicant(s)

HENDRICKS ET AL.

Examiner

Andrew Y Koenig

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 December 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-35,37-43,45,47-60,62,64-80,82-116,118 and 120-145 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-35,37-43,45,47-60,62,64-80,82-116,118 and 120-145 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) g.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 10 December 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
2. Regarding applicant's argument that neither Graczyk nor Palazzi teaches a set top terminal comprising a receiver that receives television program signals and digital audio signal from a television program delivery system in addition to a hardware upgrade for the set top terminal comprising audio processing circuitry comprising a tuner that tunes to a selected audio program in the received digital audio signals based on a subscriber audio program selection. The examiner disagrees. It should be understood that the combination of Graczyk and Palazzi teaches an upgrade for the set top terminal as a whole in that it can replace (upgrade) a set top terminal. As per the applicant's argument that set top terminal comprising a receiver that receives television program signals and digital audio signals from a television program delivery system, the applicant is directed to Palazzi (col. 7, ll. 36-40), which teaches both the television and audio signals originating from a headend and the system of Graczyk clearly receives television and audio programs, which is modified by Palazzi to receive digital signals. Additionally, the applicant argues that Graczyk fails to teach tuning a selected audio program selection based on a subscriber selection. The examiner disagrees. The system of Graczyk uses a tuner (see fig. 4, label 256) in order to receive and demodulate the received signal, furthermore Graczyk teaches the user to control the AM/FM tuner circuit (col. 11, ll. 20-25).

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3. The applicant traversed all Official Notices taken in the previous action.

Accordingly, the following references are cited to support the examiner's position.

4. Official Notice is taken that HDTV signals are notoriously well known in the art.

U.S. Patent 5,151,785 to Citta et al. teaches sending and receiving HDTV signals (abstract)

5. Official Notice is taken that displaying a channel identifier on the screen is well known in art. Goldstein, already of record teaches displaying a channel identifier on the screen (col. 30, ll. 33-39).

6. Official Notice is taken that using LED devices is well known in art. U.S. Patent 4,279,035 to Skerlos teaches a LED display (fig. 3).

7. Official Notice is taken that four-wire multipin connectors and connectors from DB9-DB25 are notoriously well known in the art. U.S. Patent 5,335,313 to Douglas teaches DB9 and DB25 connections (Abstract). U.S. Patent 4,484,218 to Boland et al. teaches 4-wire multipin connections (fig. 4a)

8. Official Notice is taken that a display indicating use is well known in the art. U.S. Patent 5,054,071 to Bacon shows displaying information to denote indicating use (fig. 8a-8d)

9. Official Notice is taken that an operation center, one or more headends, and satellite systems are notoriously well known in the art. U.S. Patent 3,794,923 to Ellis teaches one or more headends (Abstract), which reads on an operation center. U.S. Patent 4,509,198 to Nagatomi teaches a satellite system (Abstract).

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10. The applicant noted that the examiner did not provide any reason for rejecting claims 25, 29, 42, 90, 103, and 128.

11. Regarding claims 42, 90, and 128, the examiner notes that the applicant asserted on page 2 that claims 42, 90, and 128 were rejected, however, the header is incorrect and should omit claims 42, 90, and 128. The examiner notes the typographical errors, but did provide a reason and grounds of rejection. The rejection of claim 42 is located on page 9 of the first office action. The rejection of claims 90 and 128 are is located on page 8 of the first office action. However, the examiner provided reasons for rejecting the corresponding claims and apologizes for any confusion.

12. Regarding claims 25 and 29, the examiner notes that the grounds of the rejections were made for the corresponding claims but inadvertently omitted the claims.

13. Claim 25 corresponds to claim 11.

14. Claim 29 corresponds to claim 15.

15. The examiner inadvertently omitted a rejection for claim 103. Accordingly, a new ground of rejection will be made and this action is a non-final.

16. However, the examiner notes that the limitation of claim 103 is taught by Graczyk. Graczyk teaches a multimedia circuit (claimed one additional hardware upgrade) (fig. 1, label 14), which produces audio output and clearly must receive user input, such as playing CD-ROM (fig. 1, label 28, col. 36, ll. 2-10).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

17. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

18. Claims 1-4, 8-11, 13-14, 16-19, 22-24, 27-28, 31-33, 37-39, 41-43, 45-47, 51-56, 60, 62-64, 68-71, 73-74, 78, 80-82, 86-89, 91-92, 96, 98-108, 110-114, 116, 118-120, 124-127, 129-130, 134, 137-138, and 141-142 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,192,999 to Graczyk et al. in view of U.S. Patent 4,513,315 to Dekker et al.

Regarding claims 1, 23, 24, 37, 45, 62, 80, 110, and 118, Graczyk teaches a computer system capable of receiving television signals and audio signals (fig. 4). Graczyk discloses audio components to be used in conjunction with displaying television signals (Abstract). Graczyk also teaches audio circuits solely for receiving audio signals (see fig. 4). Dekker teaches a tuning unit (fig. 1) for receiving both television and separate digital audio channels (Abstract). Whereas Dekker does not explicitly describe an interface for selecting audio programs, clearly the system of Dekker must select audio channel in order to permit the subscriber to listen to one of the plurality of audio channels and to enable a tuner to select the appropriate channel. Dekker teaches audio processing circuitry, such as tuning unit 15, demodulator 16, echo canceller 17, pulse restorer 18, stereo demodulator 19, and digital to analog converters (19 and 20). Furthermore, Dekker teaches left and right speakers for

outputting the selected audio signal (see fig 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Graczyk to support receiving audio signal within the television bandwidth as taught by Dekker in order to provide more variety and selection for the subscribers thereby offering more services and enabling one system to utilize duplicative components in order to reduce the overall cost.

Graczyk is silent on using the audio circuits solely for receiving audio signals. Dekker teaches a tuning unit 15 (see figure 1), which reads on the claimed tuner. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Graczyk by using a tuner in order to demodulate signals, thereby enabling the system to reproduce the audio signals.

The examiner notes that this system could be used in a system and the system as a whole is considered a hardware upgrade for a set top terminal.

Further regarding claims 110 and 118, Graczyk is silent on teaches HDTV signals. Official Notice is taken that HDTV signals are notoriously well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Graczyk by using HDTV signals in order to benefit from the higher quality signals and pictures.

Regarding claims 3, 47, 64, 82, and 120, Graczyk is silent on using the audio circuits solely for receiving audio signals. Dekker shows a demodulator 16 (fig. 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Graczyk to use an audio demodulator as taught by

Dekker in order to demodulate the signal into base band, thereby allowing the audio system to reproduce the audio signal.

Regarding claim 4, Graczyk teaches digital audio signals (col. 6, ll. 18-32).

Regarding claims 8, 51, 68, 86, and 124, Graczyk shows 2 speakers in figure 4, labels 280, 284.

Regarding claims 9, 52, 69, 87, and 125, Graczyk teaches a serial line out which can be used for an external stereo connection (col. 37, ll. 60-63), such as an external power amplifier (col. 31, ll. 46-48, which reads on a stereo.

Regarding claims 10, 53, 70, 88, and 126, Graczyk teaches an 8742 processor (fig. 4, label 262) microprocessor accepting subscriber selections and controlling the audio circuitry.

Regarding claims 11, 25, 54, 71, 89, and 127, Graczyk teaches a remote control for entering subscriber selections (fig. 1, label 52).

Regarding claims 13, 27, 55, 73, 91, 129, 137, and 141, Graczyk is silent on displaying a channel identifier on the screen of the remote control unit. Official Notice is taken that displaying a channel identifier on the screen is well known in art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Graczyk by displaying the channel identifier in order to notify the user which channel was last selected on the remote control and to give an active feedback to the user when a key is depressed.

Regarding claims 14, 28, 56, 74, 92, 130, 138, and 142, Dekker is silent on a display comprising an LED device. Official Notice is taken that using LED devices is

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well known in art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Graczyk by displaying with an LED device in order to notify the user which channel was last selected on the remote control and to give an active feedback to the user when a key is depressed and provide an easy to use interface.

Regarding claims 16-18, Graczyk is silent on a terminal interface comprising a four-wire connector and DB9-DB25. Official Notice is taken that four-wire multipin connectors and connectors from DB9-DB25 are notoriously well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Graczyk by supporting a variety of interface connectors in order to enable a plurality of interfaces to access the module thereby enabling easier inputting/outputting of data.

Regarding claim 19, Graczyk teaches SCSI (fig. 1, lab. 13).

Regarding claims 22, 60, 78, 96, and 134, Graczyk teaches outputting both left and right components of a stereo signal (figure 4, labels 280, 284).

Regarding claims 31, 98, and 104, Graczyk teaches an expansion card slot, see fig. 45.

Regarding claim 32, Graczyk is silent on a display indicating using the first hardware upgrade. Official Notice is taken that a display indicating use is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Graczyk by indicating use on a display in order

to inform the user of pertinent information and present an active feed-back to the user to notify them that the device is currently being used.

Regarding claims 33, 102, and 108, Graczyk is silent on a hardware upgrade remotely located from the terminal. Dekker teaches a stand-alone audio receiving unit (fig. 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Graczyk by moving the audio components as a stand alone unit as taught by Dekker in order to allow the user to simplify the upgrade process, thereby enabling a more user-friendly system.

Regarding claims 38, and 111, Graczyk teaches receiving the signals that are transmitted via broadcast or cable (col. 5, ll. 62-68), a program delivery system must send those signals.

Regarding claims 39, 40, 41, 112, 113, and 114, Graczyk is silent on teaches an operation center, one or more headends, and satellite system. Official Notice is taken that an operation center, one or more headends, and satellite systems are notoriously well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Graczyk by using an operation center, one or more headends, or a satellite system in order to transmit signals to the users.

Regarding claims 43 and 116, Graczyk teaches a telephone connection to the terminal (fig. 1, lab. 22).

Regarding claims 99, 100, 105, and 106, Graczyk teaches SCSI (fig. 1, lab. 13) and SCSI inherently has a connector supports the daisy-chain arrangement

Regarding claims 101 and 107, Graczyk teaches simultaneous operation (col. 5, ll. 3-14).

Regarding claim 103, Graczyk teaches a multimedia circuit (claimed one additional hardware upgrade) (fig. 1, label 14), which produces audio output and clearly must receive user input, such as playing CD-ROM (fig. 1, label 28, col. 36, ll. 2-10).

19. Claims 5, 6, 48, 49, 65, 66, 83, 84, 121, and 122 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,192,999 to Graczyk et al. and U.S. Patent 4,513,315 to Dekker et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,270,809 to Gammie et al.

Regarding claims 5, 48, 65, 83, and 121, Graczyk is silent on demultiplexing the digital audio signals. Gammie teaches an audio demultiplexer fig. 4, label 417. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Graczyk by using an audio demultiplexor as taught by Gammie in order to remove the unnecessary content from the signal in order to accurately process and reproduce the audio signal.

Regarding claims 6, 49, 66, 84, and 122, Graczyk is silent on a decryptor for the digital audio signals. Gammie teaches an audio decryption unit, fig. 4, label 417. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Graczyk by using an audio decryptor as taught by Gammie in order to remove the unnecessary content and protection from the signal thereby accurately processing and reproducing the audio signal.

20. Claims 7, 50, 67, 85, and 123 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,192,999 to Graczyk et al. and U.S. Patent 4,513,315 to Dekker et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,550,863 to Yurt et al.

Regarding claims 7, 50, 67, 85, and 123, Graczyk is silent on a decompressor for the compressed audio signals. Yurt teaches an audio decompressor, fig. 6, label 208, which inherently decompresses the audio signal in order to produce a more accurate representation of the audio segment lost during transmission. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Graczyk by using a decompressor as taught by Yurt in order to provide a more accurate reproduction of the audio signal.

21. Claims 12, 15, 26, 27, 29, 57, 72, 75, 90, 93, 128, 131, 136, 139, 140, and 143 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,192,999 to Graczyk et al. and U.S. Patent 4,513,315 to Dekker et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,410,326 to Goldstein.

Regarding claims 12, 15, 23, 26, 27, 29, 57, 72, 75, 90, 93, 128, 131, 136, 139, 140, and 143, Graczyk is silent on the remote control comprising a display. Goldstein teaches a remote control with a LCD display (col. 8, ll. 7-14). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in art at the time the invention was made to modify Graczyk by implementing a LCD display on the remote control as taught by Goldstein in order to present information to the via the remote control thereby enabling the user to receive advertisements and providing an easy to use interface.

22. Claims 20, 21, 30, 34, 42, 58, 76, 94, 115, and 132 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,192,999 to Graczyk et al. and U.S. Patent 4,513,315 to Dekker et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,253,066 to Vogel.

Regarding claims 20, 30, 58, 76, 94, and 132, Graczyk is silent on a menu generator. Vogel teaches the use of menus, see figures 3-4. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Graczyk by using a menu generator as taught by Vogel in order to create menus thereby making a user-friendly user interface to present to the user.

Regarding claims 21 and 34, Graczyk is silent on a channel identifier display. Vogel teaches displaying a channel identifier corresponding to the user selection (fig. 4).

Regarding claims 42 and 115, Graczyk is silent on teaching using fiber optic connections. Vogel teaches fiber optic connections (col. 8, ll. 36-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Graczyk by using fiber optic connections as taught by Vogel in order to benefit from the high bandwidth and signal characteristics of fiber optic cables.

23. Claims 36, 44, 61, 79, 97, 102, 109, 117, and 135 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,192,999 to Graczyk et al. and U.S. Patent 4,513,315 to Dekker et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,327,554 to Palazzi et al.

Regarding claims 102 and 109, Graczyk is silent on receiving interactive input and producing interactive output. Palazzi teaches communicating with interactive

services (online databases) outside the television network (col. 5, ll. 63-66) and supplying financial information (col. 9-10, ll. 61-10), which requires interactive subscriber input. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Graczyk by using interactive inputs and outputs as taught by Palazzi in order to efficiently display pertinent information to the user.

24. Claims 35, 59, 77, 95, and 133 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,192,999 to Graczyk et al. and U.S. Patent 4,513,315 to Dekker et al. in view of U.S. Patent 4,887,308 to Dutton.

Regarding claims 35, 59, 77, 95, and 133, Graczyk is silent on receiving one of more data signals containing information about the audio programs. Dutton teaches receiving a separate data channel containing information about audio programs (Abstract). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Graczyk by receiving supplemental information about audio programs in order to provide the user with more information, such as the artist, title, etc. in order to promote usability.

25. Claims 144-145 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,192,999 to Graczyk et al. and U.S. Patent 4,513,315 to Dekker et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,479,268 to Young et al.

Regarding claim 144, Graczyk teaches a computer system capable of receiving television signals and audio signals (fig. 4). Graczyk discloses audio components to be used in conjunction with displaying television signals (Abstract). Graczyk also teaches audio circuits solely for receiving audio signals (see fig. 4). Dekker teaches a tuning unit (fig. 1) for receiving both television and separate digital audio channels (Abstract). Whereas Dekker does not explicitly describe an interface for selecting audio programs, clearly the system of Dekker must select audio channel in order to permit the subscriber to listen to one of the plurality of audio channels and to enable a tuner to select the appropriate channel. Dekker teaches audio processing circuitry, such as tuning unit 15, demodulator 16, echo canceller 17, pulse restorer 18, stereo demodulator 19, and digital to analog converters (19 and 20). Furthermore, Dekker teaches left and right speakers for outputting the selected audio signal (see fig 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Graczyk to support receiving audio signal within the television bandwidth as taught by Dekker in order to provide more variety and selection for the subscribers thereby offering more services and enabling one system to utilize duplicative components in order to reduce the overall cost.

Graczyk is silent on using the audio circuits solely for receiving audio signals. Dekker teaches a tuning unit 15 (see figure 1), which reads on the claimed tuner. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Graczyk by using a tuner in order to demodulate signals, thereby enabling the system to reproduce the audio signals.

Graczyk is silent on a hardware upgrade for the set top terminal remotely located from the set top terminal. Young teaches a schedule system/tape controller (fig. 22A 22B) (claimed hardware upgrade), which is located remotely from the set top terminal (col. 12, ll. 38-52). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Graczyk remotely locating devices (e.g. upgrades) by Young in order to diversify a system by enabling one to customize their setup by adding and removing devices.

Regarding claim 145, Graczyk teaches a remote control for entering subscriber selections (fig. 1, label 52).


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Y Koenig whose telephone number is (703) 306-0399. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (7:30 - 6:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile can be reached on (703) 305-4380. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

ayk
February 24, 2003


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